

Meeting Highlights | October 16, 2006, 2:00–5:00 Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan Basin Advisory Panel

Meeting Overview

- Panel members approved their decision-making charter with modifications to clarify that the plan would be non-regulatory and ultimately *recommended* for adoption by the appropriate elected officials.
- Panel members identified their own interests related to groundwater management planning and began to formulate goals and objectives related to basin management.
- The Panel recommended that the planning horizon be 2030 and beyond.

Next Meeting

2:00-5:00, November 20, 2006, Sonoma Community Center

Action Items

11/20/06 Meeting	Staff	Invite the water agencies and suppliers to provide brief overview of agencies' goals and objectives and conservation efforts as it inter-relates to the basin management goals and objectives
TBD	Staff	Provide update on water budget provided in USGS report
11/20/06 Meeting	Staff	Create work plan for panel for Dec 06-May 07 timeframe
11/20/06	Staff	Bring existing mailing list to meeting as part of discussion on public outreach plan

Charter

Members reviewed the charter which the Center for Collaborative Policy had revised since the first meeting. The Panel approved the charter with some changes to make sure it is clear that the Panel would be recommending the Groundwater Management Plan for adoption by the elected officials and if unable to reach consensus, the Panel will form a sub-committee to develop a proposal for Panel approval.

Basin Advisory Panel Member Interests

After discussing principles related to effective negotiation, Panel members met in groups of two to identify and understand each others' interests. Interests articulated in the subsequent large group discussion are:

- Sustainable water supply
- Sustainable yield
- Diversity and augmentation of supply
- Protect quality and quantity
- Recharge
- Recycled water
- Preserving agriculture

- Decisions made on sound science
- Determine the extent of the problem in the near term
- Be proactive before there's a crisis
- Promote water conservation for everyone
- Conservation of water through market mechanisms
- Educating the public for the long term
- Grapple with growth and land use planning and the interface with water management
- Concerned about future children
- Preserve small town way of life
- Preserve agriculture
- Livelihood and growth
- Concerned about information available to make a plan
- Identify ways to implement the plan
- Have the plan be usable and credible
- Good information can help establish common ground
- Broadly involve the community

Discussion on Basin Management Goals and Objectives

Participants reviewed a handout providing context and examples of basin management goals and objectives. They discussed a time horizon of 2030 or 50 years, ultimately deciding on rolling 30-year plans that would always look 30 years out and beyond.

Goals

Formatting:

- Prefer to have one goal. Few words, precise wording. Allow for flexibility.

Add or Consider:

- Like the list of uses
- Add list of sources
- Proactive steps to increase supply
- Residential well owners are currently not included
- Increase efficiency and alternate sources
- Be quantitative where possible
- Reverse damage as opposed to protect against
- Reference flooding
- Education should be a component. There is a need to educate the public on wise water use

Objectives

- Reflect need for education
- Make objectives quantitative, not just qualitative. Precision is helpful.
- Improve, not maintain conditions
- Water quality may be different
- Seek to improve reliability by integrating groundwater with other supply sources
- Include an objective related to monitoring and reporting to the community
- Include reference to recharge
- Sensitivity to time of year
- Maintain flow model and use as a tool for land use

Information Needs:

- Water budget should be updated from 2000 to 2006.
- Location of recharge areas.

Outreach

Staff is preparing a public outreach plan to identify opportunities for educating the community and seek their input as the plan is developed. Suggestions on public outreach included the following:

- Provide briefings at organizations and existing meetings.
- Work with social groups such as homeowners associations, Kiwanis, Rotary, etc.
- Constituent briefings critical. Provide talking points, newsletter articles, etc. to assist.
- Media outreach and press releases for milestones.
 - George McCleod, Kenwood Press (Father of member John McCleod)
- Use existing agency annual reports and organizational newsletters
- Create a frequently asked questions document
- Sonoma County Water Coalition would like to invite an agricultural representative to attend and talk about water use and conservation at one of their meetings.
- Create links to the Basin Advisory Panel site on members' organizational web sites.